

# MICUA Matters

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SUMMER 2008

## Loyola Dedicates Second Habitat for Humanity House

Service learning is an important element of the educational experience at **Loyola College in Maryland**, which contributes over 5,000 hours in community service each year and is known throughout the region and nation as a leader in the field. The culmination of one recent



project—Loyola's second Habitat for Humanity home, located in West Baltimore's Sandtown neighborhood—was reached in a dedication ceremony on April 26. Sandtown Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization that builds and rehabilitates vacant houses—in partnership with the new homeowners—through volunteer labor and private funding.

Loyola sponsored its first house through Habitat for Humanity's Sandtown affiliate in 2005. To meet the sponsorship requirement of \$25,000, Loyola's Habitat chapter raised money through private and corporate donors, a St. Patrick's dinner, coin collection, and t-shirt sales. That first house was completed and dedicated in April 2007. Loyola volunteers began work on a second house, which had been vacant for 12 years, last September. Volunteers consisted mainly of Loyola students, with

assistance from community groups, such as sports teams and college departments as well as current and future Habitat homeowners. Plans for a third house are in the works. ■

## MICUA Works to Enhance Minority Business Enterprise Participation

In December 2007, the MICUA Board of Trustees adopted an action plan to build on existing efforts to enhance minority and local business participation in capital construction projects.

The MICUA Board authorized the formation of a committee, comprised of MICUA Chief Financial Officers and other institutional representatives, in an effort to develop partnerships which will lead to increased minority and local business participation in construction contracts at MICUA institutions. The Committee has held several meetings to date, including meetings with representatives of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs; the Maryland Department of Transportation, Office of Minority Business Enterprise; the Greater

Baltimore Committee Bridging the Gap program; and the Maryland Hospital Association.

In November 2008, the MICUA MBE Committee will make recommendations to the MICUA Board of Trustees, which is comprised of the Presidents of all 18 MICUA institutions. MICUA's goal is to develop best practices in minority-owned business contracting, provide training opportunities on minority outreach and inclusion, and increase the value of contracts awarded to minority- and locally-owned business contractors. This initiative is one of MICUA's top priorities, which relates directly to its mission of contributing to the future economic strength of our nation, State, and local communities. ■

## Seurkamp Named Chair of MICUA Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Independent College and University Association has elected Mary Pat Seurkamp, President of **College of Notre Dame of Maryland**, as Chair of the Board effective July 1, 2008. Elected by unanimous vote of the MICUA Board of Trustees—which includes the presidents of 18 private colleges and universities in Maryland—Dr. Seurkamp will lead the organization in implementing its strategic objectives.

Dr. Seurkamp was appointed in 1997 as the first permanent lay President of College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Under her leadership, the College has seen extensive campus and facility renewal, a growing academic program, a dramatic increase in philanthropic support, and plans to launch a school of pharmacy, which will be the first at a women's college in the United States.

At its June meeting, the MICUA Board elected members to key positions for two-year terms. Other appointments include: Vice Chair—Baird Tipson, President of **Washington College**; Secretary/Treasurer—Rev. Brian Linnane, S.J., President of **Loyola College in Maryland**; Member at Large—Kevin Manning, President of **Stevenson University** (formerly Villa Julie College); and Capital Projects Committee Chair—Thomas Powell, President of **Mount St. Mary's University**. ■



## BIC Wins Gold at Culinary Knowledge Bowl

This past April, a team of five **Baltimore International College** students won a gold medal in the Baron H. Galand Knowledge Bowl competition. The prestigious event was held at the American Culinary Federation's Northeast Regional Conference in Cincinnati. The students were up against seven other teams in a Jeopardy-style, double-elimination tournament and won the medal for scoring more than 500 points in two rounds. The questions measured knowledge of culinary and baking terms and could even be challenging to veteran instructors. Team members—who were required to have a minimum GPA of 3.25 and to audition for a place on the team—worked very hard, staying after class and into the evening to drill each other on meticulous culinary practices and terms. “It's great to see the students get enthused about something for which they have a passion,” said Chef Faith Kling, one of the coaches for the team. ■



## Johns Hopkins Project Mines Afro-American Archives

**Johns Hopkins** has launched a student internship program to mine the wealth of historic material contained in the archives of *The Afro-American Newspaper*, the publication of record for Baltimore's African-American community since 1892. In order to preserve the newspaper's archival holdings and make them accessible, the Center for Africana Studies and the Sheridan Libraries' Center for Educational Resources have embarked on the internship program funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The program selected five students from Johns Hopkins, **Goucher College**, and Morgan State University as its initial cohort to uncover and describe the contents of the paper's archives. Their work began in January. In their first week, the interns found such treasures as photographs of civil rights activist Daisy Bates, a photograph of Sudanese political leader El Ferik Ibrahim Abboud walking with President John F. Kennedy, and thousands of clippings chronicling the everyday lives of black Baltimoreans through announcements of births, deaths, weddings, and graduations. ■

# TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

## MICUA Alumni Claim Half of State's Top Honors for Teaching

Each year, Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties honor the best public school teachers in their districts with the coveted title: Teacher of Year. Students trained at MICUA colleges and universities have claimed half of this year's awards, a testament to the quality of education at a Maryland independent institution. Winners will be candidates for Maryland Teacher of the Year, to be announced October 3. Last year April Todd, a graduate of **Washington College**, won the State's top award.

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**  
**Broadneck High School**  
*Clayton Culp: mathematics,*  
*grades 9-12*

Clayton Culp is currently studying for his master's degree in curriculum and instruction at **McDaniel College**. Culp has been teaching for six years and while he finds satisfaction in



teaching a variety of mathematics courses, it is his experience and community service projects that he finds most rewarding. He has coordinated three separate trips with more than 50 students to deliver financial support and physical labor to help areas of Louisiana and Mississippi that were destroyed by

Hurricane Katrina. Culp hopes to promote the same level of community giving spirit to the students he teaches.

**BALTIMORE CITY**  
**Northwood Elementary School**  
*Kristin Covaleskie: all subjects,*  
*grade 4*

Kristen Covaleskie received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from **Goucher College**. She has been a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School system since 1996 and has taught kindergarten through fourth grade.

Covaleskie says, "my pride in who I am as an educator lies in the performance of my students within their school and greater community and their

respect for one another." She has been an afterschool academy teacher, a mentor teacher for student interns, Chairperson for the School Improvement team, and resident advisor for the Baltimore City Teaching Residency.



**BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
**Franklin High School**  
*John Billingslea: social studies,*  
*grades 11-12*

John Billingslea, a graduate of **Washington College** and **College of Notre Dame of Maryland** with degrees in psychology and leadership in teaching, became a teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools in 1994. Currently teaching AP social studies at Franklin High School in Reisterstown, he was named College Board AP Teacher of the Year in 2005 and works with many State and national professional associations. In addition to his success as an educator—his students alone account for nearly 30 percent of Franklin's AP test-takers—he is also a champion of "the artistry of teaching," dedicated to



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promoting the profession, teacher recruitment, and teacher retention.

### CAROLINE COUNTY

Ridgely Elementary School

*Melissa McFayden: pre-kindergarten*



Melissa McFayden received a master's degree in early childhood education from **College of Notre Dame of Maryland**. McFayden began her teaching career in Caroline County in 2001, after nine years working in the airline industry. She serves as a mentor and an active member of the Positive Behavior Intervention Strategy Committee and the School Improvement Team. She is a candidate for National Board

Certification. McFayden says, "Teaching is a way of life for me. I'm a teacher at home, at school, and in my community."

### CARROLL COUNTY

Winfield Elementary School

*Mary Catherine Stephens: math, science, social studies; grade 5*



Mary Catherine Stephens received her master's degree in administration and supervision from **Johns Hopkins University**. Stephens's colleagues visit her fifth grade classroom at Winfield Elementary School observing math and technology lessons. Recently, she presented a countywide seminar entitled Making Multiple Math Groups Work. In the school, she has served as

Chairman of the Technology Committee, Instructional Support Team representative, member of the science and math committees, PTA teacher representative, parent workshop

facilitator, and coordinator of online science testing for Maryland School Assessment. Ever student-centered, Stephens volunteers her time providing after-school tutoring.

### CHARLES COUNTY

T.C. Martin Elementary School

*Margaret Childers: all subjects, grade 3*



In 2000, Margaret Childers earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from **McDaniel College**.

"I am proud to be a graduate of McDaniel College," says Childers. "The degree program there was a perfect fit for both my professional development needs as well as

the demands of my schedule." Childers grew up in the small town of Willard, Ohio. She is married to Retired Master Sergeant Gordon Childers. They have called many states home, and also lived for five years in Germany. While there, Margaret Childers worked as an educational aide for the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools.

### FREDERICK COUNTY

Oakdale Middle School

*Kathryn Tobery: visual art, grades 6-8*



Kathy Tobery, a Frederick County native, teaches in the Frederick County Public Schools and is currently enrolled in **Hood College's** graduate certificate in ceramic arts program. She

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believes one important way to leave no child behind is to connect each with a purpose encouraging growth, as art education does. Her proudest moments include: co-publishing “Our Heroes” featuring student art, guiding student participation in Baltimore’s Artscape, and involving students in creating a silhouette collage of the city of Frederick’s clustered spires. Tobery works with Maryland Substance Abuse Prevention and promotes diversity appreciation through cultural festivals.

**HARFORD COUNTY**

**George D. Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale**

**Ronald Wooden: all subjects, grade 5**

Ronald Wooden, who holds a master’s degree from **College of Notre Dame of Maryland**, worked with his teammates at the Title 1 Lisby/Hillsdale Elementary School to raise student



Maryland School Assessment scores into the 80/90 percent range last year, earning commendation from the Maryland State Department of Education. The fifth grade teacher and principal of an afterschool enrichment program has twice been named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year and recently

presented at the National Title 1 Conference. A 2008 Harford Leadership Academy graduate, Wooden has presented at many countywide staff development conferences. He is the first African-American male to be named Harford Teacher of the Year.

**HOWARD COUNTY**

**Marriotts Ridge High School**

**Terry Eberhardt: chorus, grades 9-12**

Terry Eberhardt earned a bachelor’s degree in music from The Peabody Conservatory of

**Johns Hopkins**

**University.** He is one of

the original staff members of the Marriotts Ridge High School which opened in 2005. At Marriotts Ridge High School, Terry has developed an award-winning music program in just three years. A visitor to Eberhardt’s classroom will see 100 percent of the students actively engaged in learning and focused on a strong cross-cultural connection to the other major academic areas. He serves as instructional team leader for the fine arts department and is an active member of Marriotts Ridge School Improvement Team.



**ST. MARY’S COUNTY**

**Spring Ridge Middle School**

**Bonnie Beavan: mathematics, grade 8**

Bonnie Beavan earned her master’s degree in leadership in teaching from **College of Notre Dame of Maryland**. Her personalized approach to meeting the needs of each and every one of her students shows as she helps many students who have never experienced academic success soar to new heights. Beavan’s dedication to children is evident through her work as a school AAU basketball coach. She also works with the Boys and Girls Club, volunteers for Young Life, and supervises the school’s Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program announcing sporting events at Leonardtown High School. She is a mentor teacher and conducts classroom modeling for the county’s new teachers.



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**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**Funkstown School for Early**  
**Childhood Education**  
*Shanna Byrd: magnet, grade 2*



Shanna Byrd graduated from **Mount St. Mary's University** with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and received her master's degree in curriculum and development from **Hood College**. She supports student success by providing extended learning opportunities for struggling learners. Her skills in nurturing creativity, higher-level thinking, and risk-taking were recognized when she was the recipient of a tri-state area Teacher of the Week award in 2006 and 2007 and a Washington County Public Schools Golden Apple Award in 2008. Byrd mentors children within her neighborhood, adopts a needy family each Christmas, and raises funds for Breast Cancer Awareness.

**WORCESTER COUNTY**  
**Stephen Decatur Middle School**  
*Amy Gallagher: social studies,*  
*grade 8*



Amy Gallagher graduated from **Mount St. Mary's University** with a bachelor's degree in history and sociology. Nationally Board Certified, Gallagher teaches eighth grade U.S. history at Stephen Decatur Middle School. She shows her students that U.S. history is more than a series of facts and dates; it is a collection of stories that helps define our culture. By implementing activities that bring history alive, Gallagher actively engages her students and helps them develop a deep interest in social studies. Gallagher's leadership role continues outside the classroom in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Women Educators. ■

**Stevenson to Launch First Middle School Teacher Prep Program**

**T**his fall, **Stevenson University** (formerly Villa Julie College) will launch the State's first teacher preparation program designed specifically for middle school education. The Maryland State Department of Education recently approved the college's application to add the program. "We take educating the teachers of tomorrow very seriously," says Stevenson President Kevin Manning. "This new program will allow us to provide teachers who can make a difference in the lives of middle school students."



*Stevenson freshman Edward Collins talks about his intention to enroll in the new middle school teacher preparation program at an event announcing the program this spring.*

The program will train highly qualified teachers for grades four through nine. Stevenson will offer one track in English/language arts and social studies and a second track in mathematics and science. The college currently has more than 200 students enrolled in teacher preparation programs for early childhood education and elementary education. Current freshmen and incoming freshmen will have the opportunity to enroll in the middle school program beginning this fall. Stevenson students who enroll in the new option will spend their entire senior year working in classrooms at nearby Pikesville Middle School.

Villa Julie College announced at a press conference on June 12 that after several years of research and focused efforts it has achieved university status and is changing its name to Stevenson University. ■

## Commencement 2008: Students Celebrate a Shared Experience

For thousands of MICUA students, years of hard work, good times, intellectual intensity, and personal growth reached their culmination at commencement 2008. Although official counts aren't yet tallied, about 14,000 MICUA students earned degrees this year. Graduates were inspired, challenged, and entertained by commencement speakers including a congressman and a delegate, a surgeon and a singer, an archbishop and an actor, a public radio host and a news correspondent. A few of



*Graduates at Hood College*

the diverse experiences of MICUA graduates are highlighted below.



*Washington College award-winner Emma Sovich*

While most college seniors will look back on their graduation ceremony as a day of pomp and circumstance culminating in a handshake and a diploma, for **Washington College** senior Emma Sovich, 22, an English major from Baltimore, the ceremony brought another reward: a check for \$67,481. Sovich's prizewinning portfolio—a collection of poems, critical essays and essays from her blog—earned her the largest literary award in the country exclusively for undergraduates, the Sophie Kerr Prize at the College's 225th commencement.

Navon Ferrell, a **Capitol College** graduate, commented that the College has given him a sense of pride in his accomplishments. "A Capitol education has brought me far, from being a lifeguard to a position at Lockheed Martin. The least we can do as new graduates is to give back to the campus."



*Capitol College graduate Navon Ferrell*

With nearly 900 students, the class of 2008 marks **College of Notre Dame of Maryland's** largest number of graduates ever. This year's class included five students who received the first doctoral degrees from the College, which launched the Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations Ph.D. program in 2004. In addition, Ron Wooden—Harford County's 2008 teacher of the year—completed his studies in December and walked in graduation ceremonies.

At **Sojourner-Douglass College**, 160 bachelor's degree candidates and 23 master's degree candidates crossed the stage as they were presented with their degrees, cheered on by families and loved ones. The theme of commencement was "Today we are fighting for the dream—tomorrow we will live the dream." ■



*Sojourner-Douglass College commencement*

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**MICUA**

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Johns Hopkins University  
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Maryland Institute College of Art  
McDaniel College  
Mount St. Mary's University  
Ner Israel Rabbinical College  
St. John's College  
St. Mary's Seminary & University  
Sojourner-Douglass College  
Stevenson University  
Washington College

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## **Maryland Ranks Second in Nation in Tech Index**

**M**aryland ranks second in the nation in the Milken Institute's recently released *2008 State Technology and Science Index*, which takes inventory of the technology and science assets that can be leveraged to promote economic development in each state. Maryland moved up from fourth place to second thanks to strong positions across many indicators used by the Institute. In particular, the report cited an improvement in the ability to attract businesses into the State and new projects that link research institutions with industry to produce the most advanced products. Only Massachusetts was ranked higher in the nationwide study.

According to the Milken Institute's report, Maryland excels by virtue of its highly educated workforce and the State's exceptional system of

colleges and universities which confers a large number of graduate degrees. Maryland's performance also improved because of its high percentage of bachelor's degrees granted in science and engineering as well as the magnitude of change in State appropriations for higher education.

"With strong partnerships between the public and private sectors, and collaborative research with universities, federal and commercial partners, we have been able to create a strong technology industry in Maryland," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The results of the Milken Institute study are further evidence that Maryland is highly and increasingly competitive in drawing, retaining, and growing technology-based businesses." ■